

[Shri K. Mayathevar]

I therefore, request the Central Government, especially the Ministry of Electricity and Irrigation to instruct the Tamil Nadu Government to provide (i) the drinking water and (ii) the supply of electricity and Irrigation to instruct the Tamil Nadu Government to provide (i) the drinking water and (ii) the supply of electricity to all farmers and to all my Dindigul constituency people.

(xii) URGENT NEED TO INCREASE THE WAGES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS TO IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगावार (पीलीभीत) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अधीन देश के कृषि मजदूरों को न्यूनतम मजदूरी के महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

देश के विभिन्न भागों में कृषि मजदूरों की न्यूनतम मजदूरी आज के महंगाई से त्रस्त समय में सब से कम है। देश के उन्नत व समृद्ध राज्य महाराष्ट्र के मजदूर को अधिकृत सूचना के अनुसार केवल 4 रुपये से साढ़े-पांच रुपये तथा उड़ीसा में 5 रुपये प्रतिदिन कृषि मजदूर को मजदूरी दी जाती है। कुछ अन्य राज्यों में मजदूरों की स्थिति इस से बेहतर नहीं है और असंगठित होने के कारण खेतिहर मजदूरों का शोषण जारी है।

कृषि मजदूरों को न्यूनतम मजदूरी के मामले में हरियाणा, पंजाब व केन्द्र शासित क्षेत्र चण्डीगढ़ सब से आगे हैं, जहाँ न्यूनतम मजदूरी 14 रुपये प्रतिदिन है।

केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कुछ ही समय पूर्व केन्द्रीय क्षेत्रों के कृषि मजदूरों के लिए 6 रुपये 75 पैसे से 10 रुपये प्रतिदिन न्यूनतम मजदूरी घोषित की थी। यद्यपि केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित ये दरें राज्य सरकारों के लिए अनिवार्य नहीं हैं तथापि कृषि के मामलों में उन राज्यों को जिन में मजदूरी दर 7 रुपये प्रतिदिन से कम

है, सलाह दी गई थी कि वे न्यूनतम मजदूरी छः रुपये पछत्तर पैसे प्रतिदिन निर्धारित करने के लिए कार्यवाही करें।

अगस्त, 81 में श्रम मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में निर्णय लिया गया था कि न्यूनतम वेतन गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे न जाये, न्यूनतम वेतन का उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक से सम्बन्ध जोड़ने का तरीका निकाला जाय लेकिन महाराष्ट्र, उड़ीसा तथा अन्य कुछ राज्यों में खेतिहर, मजदूरों को जो न्यूनतम मजदूरी मिल रही है उस से इस निर्णय से कोई लाभ नहीं पहुंचा, ऐसा लगता है।

भारत के 5 करोड़ 40 लाख खेतिहर मजदूरों को आर्थिक दशा सुधार कर उन्हें कम से कम भरपेट रोटी देने के लिए उन के असंगठित होने के कारण शोषण से बचाने के लिए आवश्यक कार्यवाही केन्द्रीय सरकार को तुरन्त करना चाहिए।

(xiii) ARTIFICIAL SHORTAGE OF SODA ASH.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: Cyclic artificial shortage of soda ash has become a regular feature, creating untold hardship for small scale industries and consumers like washermen. Innumerable small-scale industries are destabilised on account of spiralling prices of each ash.

Soda ash is produced by four monopoly producers, who have absolute control over production, distribution and pricing, in the absence of any statutory control. The usual plea of cost escalation at the root cause of price increase is not convincing at all. From the minute study of balance-sheets of producers, it is clear that the cost of one tonne soda ash should not be more than Rs. 700 to Rs. 800/-. Unfortunately, black market has already reappeared. Market prices have soared from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,800 per tonne. Conditions have to be created so that producers reduce their prices consistent with the cost of production. The following

steps are, therefore, immediately called for:—

(a) The producer should not be allowed to cut down production;

(b) They must reduce their prices to pre-July 1972 level forthwith;

(c) Import duty should be reduced to 20 per cent so that the producers have to reduce their price to less than Rs. 1,200 to 1,300 per tonne. Their resistance to price reduction is stiffening by raising the false slogan of glut and dumping by Bulgaria etc.

12.52 hrs.

ANTI-HIJACKING BILL—CONTD.
 SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL ACTS
 AGAINST SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIA-
 TION BILL—CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will not take up further consideration of the Anti-Hijacking Bill and the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Bill moved by Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad. Out of two hours allotted, one hour and five minutes were taken yesterday and 55 minutes remain. We will complete these two Bills and then adjourn for lunch.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East): Sir, this Bill has come in order to give legal shape to a convention, which was passed more than half a decade ago, which it was not thought fit all these years to bring in the form of an Act. Therefore, the question arises—it is a matter of curiosity—why this Anti-Hijacking Bill come at this stage.

As far as I can understand it, the reason is that the Government has run into difficulties with its own hijackers. Earlier on, the problem was to take a political stand on hijackers of other countries. For example, if the Palestinian Libera-

tion Organisation members hijacked a plane to India, and some other countries demanded them, then India would have felt embarrassed, because we support the PLO cause. Similarly, if murdas of Bhutto had hijacked the plane from Pakistan and brought it to India, then we would have to return him to Pakistan which these people would have found very embarrassing. But these Khalistan people have brought this Government more in line with the international thinking on the subject because when the Khalistan people hijacked this plane and took it to Lahore and they were arrested and I must say Pakistan should be congratulated on helping the Indian passengers to be freed without violence and sent home safely on each time, but they found that after they were arrested by the Pakistan authorities they were demanded back. The Pakistan Government simply asked this question that if you take them back, under what law are you going to try them and, secondly, if you take them back and we give them back to you and tomorrow Pakistanis hijack a plane into India, will you reciprocate and return those people to us? This was the question that was asked from this Government and this Government had no answer because they did not have an Act. Now the Act has come and Article 7 of that Act specifies more clearly that we will reciprocate. So I welcome this Bill because it is in line and keeping with the tradition, the international tradition, that has been established that hijacking is bad whether Indians do it, whether Khalistan people do it, whether the Palestinian Liberation Organisation does it, anybody does it, we do not consider something called a terrorist hijacking or political hijacking or whatever. However, there is a moral question which this Minister must answer. There was a hijacking within the country from Lucknow to Varansi by two people called Devendra Nath Pande and Bhola Nath Pande. So, we also arrested them in Varansi and sent them to jail and filed a case against them and since then I find that they are not in jail. So, I investigated